

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 3, 18-21 and 29-55, without prejudice; and amend Claims 1, 7 and 22 as indicated below. The status of all pending claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An illumination device for illuminating a display area of an active matrix type liquid crystal display device, comprising:

at least one light source capable of changing light emission brightness;

at least one light-emitting area for emitting light from the light source; and

a light source power supply circuit for switching between a maximum lighting state in which the light source is made to emit light at a specified maximum brightness and an intermediate lighting state in which the light source is made to emit light at a specified intermediate brightness lower than the maximum ~~brightness~~ brightness;

wherein the light source power supply circuit synchronizes with one of gate pulses sequentially outputted to plural gate bus lines formed in the liquid crystal display device and switches between the maximum lighting state and the intermediate lighting state, and

when a gate pulse is outputted to a gate bus line as a display start line in the light-emitting area, the light emission brightness of the light-emitting area becomes the intermediate lighting state.

2. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 1, wherein the light-emitting area includes a light emission opening to be used when the display area is illuminated and disposed substantially in parallel to an extension direction of a gate bus line formed in the liquid crystal display device.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate lighting state is set to have a brightness level of 50% or less of a brightness level of the maximum lighting state.

5. (Original) An illumination device according to any one of claim 1, wherein an illumination time in the maximum lighting state is a time of 50% or less of one frame period.

6. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a first light source unit including a first light guide plate and a first light source disposed at an end thereof, for mainly illuminating a first light-emitting area and supplying part of light to an adjacent second light-emitting area; and

a second light source unit laminated on the first light source unit and including a second light guide plate and a second light source disposed at an end thereof, for mainly illuminating the second light-emitting area and supplying part of light to the adjacent first light-emitting area.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An illumination device according to claim 6,~~

An illumination device for illuminating a display area of an active matrix type liquid crystal display device, comprising:

at least one light source capable of changing light emission brightness;

at least one light-emitting area for emitting light from the light source;

a light source power supply circuit for switching between a maximum lighting state in which the light source is made to emit light at a specified maximum brightness and an intermediate lighting state in which the light source is made to emit light at a specified intermediate brightness lower than the maximum brightness;

a first light source unit including a first light guide plate and a first light source disposed at an end thereof, for mainly illuminating a first light-emitting area and supplying part of light to an adjacent second light-emitting area; and

a second light source unit laminated on the first light source unit and including a second light guide plate and a second light source disposed at an end thereof, for mainly

illuminating the second light-emitting area and supplying part of light to the adjacent first light-emitting area,

wherein the first light guide plate is disposed in the first and the second light-emitting areas, and the second light guide plate is disposed in only the first light-emitting area.

8. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 7, further comprising:

a third light source unit including a third light guide plate and a third light source disposed at an end thereof, for mainly illuminating a third light-emitting area and supplying part of light to an adjacent fourth light-emitting area; and

a fourth light source unit laminated on the third light source unit and including a fourth light guide plate and a fourth light source disposed at an end thereof, for mainly illuminating the fourth light-emitting area and supplying part of light to the adjacent third light-emitting area.

9. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 8, wherein the third light guide plate is disposed in the third and the fourth light-emitting areas, and

the fourth light guide plate is disposed in only the fourth light-emitting area.

10. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 9, wherein the first light guide plate and the fourth light guide plate are disposed on a same plane, and the second light guide plate and the third light guide plate are disposed on a same plane.

11. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 10, further comprising:
a transmission diffused plate disposed above the first to the fourth illumination areas; and
a light mixing area disposed between the transmission diffused plate and the first to the fourth illumination areas.

12. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 11, wherein the light mixing area is a space or a transparent member having a thickness of 0.5 mm to 10 mm.

13. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 10, wherein a double-sided reflection plate for performing regular reflection or diffuse reflection is disposed between opposite end parts of the second light guide plate and the third light guide plate.

14. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 13, wherein a portion between the opposite end parts of the second light guide plate and the third light guide plate is formed into a Λ shape opening to a rear surface side.

15. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 14, wherein when refractivity of a light guide substance is n , an apex angle θ of the Λ shape satisfies a relation of

$$\theta \leq 180^\circ - 4 \times \sin^{-1}(1/n).$$

16. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 1, wherein the light source power supply circuit includes a brightness adjusting volume for adjusting brightness of emission light from the light-emitting area.

17. (Original) A liquid crystal display device of an active matrix type, comprising:

an illumination device according to claim 1.

18-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) An illumination device according to claim 1, wherein the light-emitting area includes a plurality of the light sources, and

~~the light-~~ a light source control system that controls currents fed to the plurality of the light sources, respectively, to switch between the maximum lighting state in which the light-emitting area is made to emit light at the maximum brightness and the intermediate lighting state in which the light-emitting area is made to emit light at the specified intermediate brightness lower than the maximum brightness.

23. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 22, wherein the light source control system feeds a current to at least one of the plurality of the light sources so that the maximum lighting state occurs at a specified period and a non-lighting state occurs at a time other than that, and

feeds a current to the remaining light source so that the non-lighting state occurs at a time of the maximum lighting state and the intermediate lighting state occurs at a time other than that.

24. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 22, wherein the light source control system feeds a current to at least one of the plurality of the light sources so that a first intermediate lighting state lower than the maximum lighting state occurs at a

specified period, and a second intermediate lighting state lower than the first intermediate lighting state occurs at a time other than that, and

feeds a current to the remaining light source so that a third intermediate lighting state occurs so as to cause the illumination area to have the maximum lighting state at a time of the first intermediate lighting state, and a fourth intermediate lighting state occurs so as to cause the illumination area to have the intermediate lighting state at a time of the second intermediate lighting state.

25. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 22, wherein the light source control system feeds a current to at least one of the plurality of the light sources so that the intermediate lighting state always occurs, and

feeds a current to the remaining light source so that the illumination area has the maximum lighting state at a specified period and has a non-lighting state at a time other than that.

26. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 22, wherein the light source control system controls a current so that a non-lighting state occurs between the maximum lighting state and the subsequent intermediate lighting state.

27. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 22, wherein the light source control system controls a current so that a lighting state lower than the intermediate lighting state occurs between the maximum lighting state and the subsequent intermediate lighting state.

28. (Original) A liquid crystal display device of an active matrix type, comprising:

an illumination device according to claim 22.

29-55. (Canceled).